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Farewell to Byrnesy

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There is one less familiar face on the streets of Duxbury this week, as long-time Duxbury Police Officer Robert Byrne has passed away. Robert Byrne was born in 1927 in Boston. He came to Duxbury when he was young to live with his aunt and uncle, Eden and Jennie Keen Glover, whom he described as "two of the finest people in the world."

Byrne's father had also been brought up by the Glovers and wanted his son to be raised as he was.

On the weekends, 10-yearold Byrne would ride the train and be met at Boston's South Station by his parent. On other weekends, his mother and father would visit him and the Glovers in Duxbury.

Byrne's father, Fred D. Byrne, was in charge of the international cable station in Duxbury in 1903. The cable

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office was located at the corner of St. George and Washington Streets and backed up to the Bluefish River.

Byrne was a Boy Scout and remembers attending scout meetings in the Millbrook School. That building, which stands at the corner of Route 14 and Tremont Street, is now the Duxbury American Legion Post 223.

Byrne attended school in a one-room schoolhouse just east of the old Holy Family Church on Cedar Street, which is now the South Shore Conservatory. He attended second through fourth grades at the Village School near the Winsor House on Washington Street and when the Village School was torn down Byrne attended school in the old high school, which now serves as the Duxbury Free Library.

At the age of 18, he joined the Army as a Private to fight in World War II. He was trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as a tank driver. He was stationed in California, waiting to be deployed to the Pacific War Zone when two atomic bombs burst. Byrne's unit was sent to Germany to run tank patrols in the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He was promoted to buck sergeant. In Europe, he attend the Army's Constabulary School and served with the army of occupation in southern Bavaria. He described post-war Germany as an uneasy place were many ex-Nazis still posed a